

Victoria Street Newz

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*"All the news that fits,
we print"*

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Temporary Autonomous Shelter in The Greater Victoria Region: Recommendations for Local Government Support

by Chris Johnson

The recommendations in this report have not received final approval by all members of TASC. One of the purposes of printing the report in Street Newz is to solicit input and support from the larger community of tent city supporters. If the recommendations in this report are approved by the larger collective of tent city supporters, we will then submit this report more publicly, including formal submission to the various Capital Region municipalities. Please contact victentcity@gmail.com with your thoughts and opinions.

Introduction: Gaps in Existing Temporary Shelter Provision

According to the 2007 Homeless Needs Survey, there are over 1,200 homeless people in the Greater Victoria region. As of October 2009, there were 286 shelter mats. (Increasing to 396 during extreme weather.) The region also suffers from a less than 2% vacancy rate and a severe lack of affordable rental housing.

The discrepancy between the number of homeless and the number of available shelter mats clearly illustrates that the current shelter system is only able to accommodate less than a quarter of the homeless population at any given time.

At the same time, there are many nights throughout the year when the shelters are not being used to their full capacity. In every city there exists a number of homeless people who choose to remain outside, for various reasons, such as not being able to stay with a partner, or bring their pets or shopping carts inside. Whatever the reason, this particular population faces serious health and safety risks, and would benefit greatly from the existence of some form of low barrier shelter.

continued on page 3



photos by Reiko Maeda: Portland's Dignity Village 09



About *Street Newz*

“BUILDING BRIDGES IN THE COMMUNITY”

Coordinator: Janine Bandcroft
Distribution Coordinator: John Chomyn
Deliveries: Nancy Raycroft
Advisory Committee: Brian Mason,
Colin Dower, C’Daoim, Chris Cook,
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We are devoted to a triple bottom line philosophy - concerned about our environmental and social, as well as financial, well-being.

You can contribute to social change by supporting the *Victoria Street Newz* team, by pondering the root causes of poverty, and by working for peaceful, non-violent change.

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Submissions (due by the 1st Friday for the next month’s issue), letters, or donations can be mailed or delivered to our mailbox at:

**1027 Pandora Ave
Coast Salish Territory
Victoria, B.C., V8V 3P6**

**250-383-5144 ext 0137
streetnewz@islandnet.com**

Street Newz archives, and more information about us, can be found at

relativenewz.ca



just another rant

Now and then we hold *Street Newz* vendor meetings - to introduce and welcome new folk, re-establish old relationships, share feedback from the streets, sort through challenges, celebrate our successes, and remind ourselves that we are indeed a very important team working co-operatively to distribute a trusted alternative news source.

In January we talked about our decreased sales, and overwhelmingly vendors report that some of their customers are so hard hit by the economic downturn that they simply have no spare change. Thankfully, other regular customers remain consistent and supportive of their vendors and the *Newz*. To those struggling, we understand, wish you well, and hope you can access old issues in the archives on our website.

Vendors report they received mixed reactions to last year’s 9/11 series – some readers displeased, others grateful for it. We can’t please everybody, and we invite letters to the editor with your thoughts and opinions.

And again vendors report requests for “happy news.”

I truly don’t know how to respond except to remind readers that we are a *Street Newz*paper, consisting of submissions lovingly and thoughtfully written by various representatives from our community. If you want to write a “happy news” story and submit it, we’ll consider it for publication.

But we won’t pretend all is well when clearly it isn’t. We’re devoted to keeping it real.

Consider that millions of your hard earned tax dollars are being moved from social programs to an elite party with enormously wealthy corporate sponsors who will take from the opportunity and leave nothing of real benefit. We are about to officially enter the police state, where journalists (like Democracy Now’s Amy Goodman) are investigated at our border about their intended



Photo: REUTERS/Christian Charisius
UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE

Canadians, formerly considered peacekeepers, are now known internationally as uncaring earth killers and baby seal murderers who assist the USA in their imperialist wars for oil.

I’m sorry, but the reality is there’s just not a lot to be deliriously happy about! There’s no point pretending things are rosy when they aren’t. Many of our readers want to know the real implications of continuing to put all our faith in the “free-market” system. They’re as freaked out as I am at the death of all that is Canadian as we watch hospitals and schools and theatres lose their funding, as another winter passes with 200,000-300,000 homeless outside on the cold wintery streets.

We do joyfully honour those working for peace, for environmental health, for progressive change (see photo: Viva Hugo Chavez y Evo Morales!). But when the history books are opened, 50 or 100 years from now (if the species survives that long), with people asking “what did they do during that awful era,” you can rest assured *Street Newz* won’t be tossed aside as just another piece of fluff trying to gloss the reality under.

And if you really need “happy news,” remember that when you see this newspaper and the vendors selling it some independent media is alive, and a small group of your neighbours are providing for themselves and helping their friends less fortunate.

Knowledge is Power, and the Truth might not make you “Happy,” but they say it’ll *SET YOU FREE!*

OPINION

Drink This Up

by cyann ray

According to national stats, we Left Coasters are a thirsty bunch leading the country in both amount of alcohol consumed and rate of increase. While it’s nice to be good at something, I don’t think being hearty drinkers is anything to be proud of.

I’m no teetotaler, though admittedly, I drink alot of tea. For most of the 70’s and 80’s I liquored up regularly with my like-minded peer goup back in Toronto. Getting drunk was at least a weekly event in those days. Yet we all managed to maintain jobs, relationships, driver’s licenses, or, in my case, responsible single-parenting skills and exceptional grades at college. We all clearly enjoyed drinking, but alcohol did not consume our lives.

Then I moved to B.C. in 1990. Having left my drinking buddies back in Ontario and enjoying the praise of doing well academically, I barely noticed the sudden lack of booze in my life. I did realize though, that despite the copious amounts of alcohol I had once consumed, the fact that I could effortlessly give it up meant I was spared the ravages of addiction.

It was not until I bumped into an old friend of mine from T.O. that I began drinking again. And it wasn’t because I was thirsty or missed the buzz of booze. Drinking to me has always been a social activity. Having my old pal back in my life created a new social element. I had shared many brown pops back in the 70’s with this guy, but we reconnected on this island 25yrs. later having very different relationships with alcohol. He was a hard-core alcoholic. I wasn’t.

My T.O. buddy brought me into his social circle and eager to create a world outside of parenting and scholastics, I drank up the opportunity to meet his friends. What I discovered immediately was they were all hard-core alcoholics. They were all impoverished too, though somehow managed to fund their drinking. That

was the first curiosity I had about this group: whatever money they got, they spent on booze. I had always put rent and food first, having to turn down many a drinkfest due to lack of cash.

Another interesting observation of these west coast drinkers is that they drank outdoors. And I don’t mean outdoor patios. One could buy a 6-pack to drink in the park for the cost of a single cocktail at the bar. As someone living cheque to cheque, I certainly appreciated this oportunity to save money. I quickly began to prefer sitting on the grass with a cool cider to hanging out in noisy, dark bars.

Over the years though, I grew bored with this crowd. It wasn’t the drinking per se, it was how drinking controlled these people. As I said, my T.O. drinking buddies maintained lives outside of booze. And even though I can now see how alcoholism washed over both these groups, the fact that my Toronto pals enjoyed live music, dancing and playing darts whilst drinking, kept them interesting to be around. Not much went on within the lives of these island drinkers other than getting drunk. No new material was brought into the circle and eventually I had to leave.

Confused, but also quite bothered by the fact that some folks can drink regularly and be productive, interesting and fun to party with, while others couldn’t, I began looking at alcohol consumption differently.

Poverty can fuel despondancy. Ironically, most folks see alcohol as a ‘spirit lifter,’ rather than the depressant it is. Some would argue it helps them cope with the inconveniences of being broke. But booze costs money and with its addictive properties, financial responsibilities can fall to the curb as paycheques are turned into beverages. It’s a common cycle. People drink because they are impoverished and

discourse, while hundreds of women remain mysteriously “missing” with little official concern for their plight.



Thousands have forever lost their low-income homes to gentrification. Prices continue to increase, fixed incomes and minimum wage don’t. Food supplies are being poisoned with chemicals and genetic engineering. A pipeline is planned to carry dirty oil from the single most polluting project on earth to Kitimat where it’ll be processed and exported in supertankers along our ragged coastline.

Canadians, formerly considered peacekeepers, are now known internationally as uncaring earth killers and baby seal murderers who assist the USA in their imperialist wars for oil.

I’m sorry, but the reality is there’s just not a lot to be deliriously happy about! There’s no point pretending things are rosy when they aren’t. Many of our readers want to know the real implications of continuing to put all our faith in the “free-market” system. They’re as freaked out as I am at the death of all that is Canadian as we watch hospitals and schools and theatres lose their funding, as another winter passes with 200,000-300,000 homeless outside on the cold wintery streets.

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they can become impoverished from drinking. Rich folks can afford to drink in excess but many end up losing their jobs, spouses, friends and self-dignity not to mention their healthy livers. That’s a hefty price to pay even for those with lots of money.

There is a very ugly, destructive side of alcohol consumption yet as a society, we still celebrate booze. We make it legal and easily accessible. We pair it with fit jocks and yuppies barbecuing in lush backyards. Or couples sharing a fine meal with a delicate bottle of wine. We equate booze with legitimate stress relief after a hard day at the office or a deserved, refreshing beverage after raking the leaves.

The underground reality of alcoholism is grim. From turning motorists into murderers and wife-beaters, to needlessly exhausting our police and healthcare workers, alcohol is far more damaging than recreational and surely it’s time we address this.

I still enjoy a glass of wine with my family and non-alcoholic friends. But I have become so very conscious of this highly addictive drug and so very concerned about its consumption, that I would eagerly support any efforts to make it less accessible. I hate sounding like a prohibitionist for it makes me a hypocrite. As a long time supporter of marijuana decriminalization, I see this as an apples and oranges issue.

Nobody has died of pot abuse. In fact, pot helped my drunken buddy quit drinking and get his act together. I dare say that if folks had a choice of intoxicants to unwind with, or seek spiritual or creative enlightenment, most would chose marijuana over alcohol. Without question, a much safer buzz.

With this new year, this fresh, new decade ahead of us maybe we could all rethink the drink and mellow out at home instead with some of B.C.’s “super natural” finest!

Health and Safety Risks Associated with Lack of Available Shelter

Many who sleep outside do so unprotected from the elements, or with minimal protection, such as cardboard or unsupported tarps. In some cases tents are utilized, and in rare situations a number of tents are deployed together to form an encampment (often known as a tent city).

In the City of Victoria, a temporary bylaw prohibiting the erection of shelter during daylight hours prevents such encampments from becoming established. (Other municipalities in the region have bylaws that are in effect 24 hours a day.)

One disadvantage to these conditions is that tent users (in Victoria) must dismantle their tents by 7am, and either find somewhere to store them, or carry them around all day.

In other municipalities they must find a location where they will not be discovered. In these cases, tent users most often camp alone in order to reduce the possibility of being discovered. This puts many in danger of violent physical attack, which homeless people are much more likely to experience than the average person.

Lack of Shelter Prolonging the Homeless Experience

Lack of accessible storage means that those who must carry their belongings with them at all times are much less likely to be able to obtain employment, or access certain services. They are also vulnerable to having their belongings stolen, or seized from them by police under the chattel bylaw, which can force them to have to sleep outside without protection from the elements. Essentially, even those who have tents cannot be assured of retaining them. In addition, those who use tents outside of the City of Victoria, or during the day (such as night shift workers) must break the law to do so, and face legal consequences which can further exacerbate their condition.

We All Want Real Housing, But...

Through the Coalition to End Homelessness, an effort is underway to create new housing and new housing opportunities. While these efforts are extraordinary, it will take ten years or more to achieve the goal of housing for all. The Housing First funding priority means that the current shelter system may not be able to accommodate the entire homeless population for many years.

In the meantime, a significant amount of homeless people face numerous increased risks, including a high rate of violent attacks and illness and death related to exposure and other social determinants of health.

It is crucial that each and every homeless person be able to access some form of temporary shelter while they seek or wait for permanent shelter. It has also proven, in other cities where a variety of options exist, that it is easier to provide forms of low barrier shelter than to convince some homeless people that the shelter system is safe, secure or can accommodate their needs. (Which may not be the case anyway.)

If the funding and political will do not exist to increase the number of shelter spaces and to decrease the barriers that prevent many from accessing traditional forms of emergency shelter, then it is obvious that new solutions must be created, and quickly deployed to fill this gap.

A Need For Immediate Action

The Temporary Autonomous Shelter Collective was formed in October 2008 by a group of homeless, housed and unstably housed individuals to explore the possibility of creating a user-run model of low-cost, user-run and quickly deployed temporary shelter encampments to serve the needs of those unable to access the limited shelter space in this region. We have been supported throughout our process by the ad hoc Committee to End Homelessness, and the Vancouver Island Public Interest Research Group, as well as many individuals throughout the region.

We began our project by building capacity for collective decision making amongst community planners and future residents of the encampments, then moved on to researching the need for such a project in the region, as well as locating viable models from which we could draw lessons and examples.

Local Demand for Temporary Autonomous Shelter

Our team of volunteers created a short informal survey, which was distributed to individuals self-identifying as un-housed or unstably housed. The survey asked whether there was a need for a tent encampment, whether the individual being surveyed would support the encampment, and whether or not they would take an active role in setting up or running the encampment, as well as details about what the encampment might

look like. Of the 116 people surveyed, 80% stated there is a need for a tent city in Victoria, 83% said they would support a tent city, and 55% said they could take an active role in setting up and running the community.

Existing Models for Temporary Autonomous Shelter

Our research into existing sanctioned tent cities quickly revealed a very limited selection of tested options from which to draw examples.

The models that we found to be most accessible, in terms of cost, logistics and the ability to meet the need for safe, secure, supportive and dignified shelter, were the municipally sanctioned tent cities of Seattle, Olympia and Tacoma in Washington State. Another project which has inspired a great deal of hope has been Dignity Village in Portland, which was a mobile tent city that has since evolved into a semi-permanent urban eco-village.

Our methodology in conducting this research involved reviewing online news articles, websites and academic reports as well as email and phone conversations with tent city organizers in other cities and visits by our members to encampments in Seattle and Olympia, and to Dignity Village in Portland.

Misconceptions about Safety, Security, Sanitation and Crime

The biggest obstacle to the creation of such a model of temporary shelter in any region is the acceptance of the larger community, who fear that such encampments will be unsafe, unsanitary and unsightly. What we found however, was that despite the occasional incidence of violence or drug related crime that can happen in any form of housing, the safety, security, health risks, as well as the aesthetic concerns, of these encampments can be mitigated with the cooperation of residents, sponsors, authorities and neighbours within the larger community.

Many of the fears expressed by neighbours have proven to be unfounded. In fact, the fear for example that the crime rate will increase in neighbourhoods hosting tent cities is often proven to be just the opposite. Police frequently report that incidents of crime in the neighbour have gone down when tent city is there. This is attributed to the fact that most tent city residents work very hard to maintain the reputation of their community, which they depend on a great deal, and that they become many more eyes and ears for the neighbourhood watch program. Not only do the residents do an excellent job of self-policing, but they also make extra effort to make sure that the host community stays safe, so that they may be invited back again. There is a sense of community ownership and belonging that does not often exist in a traditional shelter setting.

Another myth about tent cities is that they are unregulated and chaotic. While this may be the case for informal and illegal encampments, sanctioned tent cities have strict guidelines that regulate who may access the encampments and how they behave once inside. While certain barriers to access are eliminated, there are also certain requirements expected of anyone wishing to stay in the encampments.

Residents are screened for outstanding warrants, as well as sex offender status, and must agree to a code of conduct that includes mutual respect for everyone within the encampment and surrounding neighbourhood, as well as an agreement to abstain from violence, drugs and alcohol within and near to the encampment. These agreements, when combined with properly trained and supported resident self-policing, contribute to a high level of safety and security.

Safety, Security and Health Benefits to Encampment Residents

There are huge safety, security and health benefits experienced by tent city residents, in comparison with sleeping rough on the street. In addition, these encampments also serve as a point of contact for service providers and support workers, which can contribute to a reduction in the amount of time spent on the street.

Given the relative privacy afforded by tents, and the ability to store belongings during the day, as well as the sense of community and self-determination created, these encampments can be in many ways superior to traditional homeless shelters for certain individuals.

Misconceptions about Enabling Homelessness

Residents must also agree to take an active role in the day-to-day operations of the encampment, which fosters responsibility, as opposed to the misconception that such encampments enable homelessness and dependency. There is no ‘free ride’ at tent city, which being user-run and maintained, is not considered charity.

Each encampment that we studied included on-site showers, portable toilets, dumpsters, a common kitchen, a security tent at the front gate staffed 24/7, and well

established emergency procedures. The encampments have a good relationship with the local police, who can and will do occasional walk-throughs, but trust the residents to resolve their own conflicts, and communicate with them through an appointed liaison.

The encampments are hosted mainly in the parking lot or backyard of faith organizations, and can accommodate anywhere from 40 to 100 people. The encampments must relocate every 90 days, and cannot return to the same location for with a 12 month period. The residents of the encampments are fully responsible for making arrangements to move the camp, including contacting residents in the surrounding neighbourhood, and facilitating a well-advertised public meeting, in which they make their case to a neighbourhood and must obtain permission from the neighbours. Support and oversight for the operation of the encampment are provided by a non-profit sponsor organization, and host organizations often supply volunteers and resources, in addition to use of property.

Bylaws and ordinances regulating these encampments exist for every municipality that the encampment visits. Examples of these bylaws are to be found in the appendices of this report. These bylaws are the basis for many of the elements and procedures described above.

Recommendations

Based on our research into the needs of the local homeless population and the feasibility of user-run tent encampments, the Temporary Autonomous Shelter Collective recommends that municipal governments in the Greater Victoria region adopt bylaws establishing permitting procedures for homeless encampments on private land. The bylaws and ordinances contained in the appendices of this report should provide suitable examples to help expedite this process.

Municipalities should also be prepared to meet with organizers and discuss a framework for liaising with local police on matters of safety and security in and around the encampments.

The costs associated with waste disposal and provision of water should also be borne by the municipal and regional governments, as services provided to all citizens in the region.

Conclusion

The Temporary Autonomous Shelter Collective is committed to the creation and facilitation of this style of encampment, and is in the process of capacity building and networking with faith organizations to host a pilot encampment. Estimated costs per month, (based on figures provided by SHARE/Wheel in Seattle) would be less \$4000 per month, which would be covered by private donations and income and income assistance of the residents.

Costs to host municipalities would be limited to services which they are already required to provide to residents, such as waste disposal and emergency services.

A Note on Standards of Shelter, and the Future of Temporary Autonomous Shelter Communities

TASC is aware of the criticism that tents are substandard shelter. However, in lieu of sufficient available housing, both permanent and temporary, hundreds of people have no other choice but to sleep outside, and many of those do so without a tent or other adequate protection from the elements.

In light of this, it must be recognized that tent encampments constitute a vast improvement over the conditions that many homeless people are currently experiencing.

At the same time, once a tent encampment has been established, the use of tents can be phased out and replaced by small, portable dwellings, which provide not only greater security and meet higher standards for safe and acceptable housing, but are more aesthetically pleasing to the larger community.

Recognizing that there is a wide-scale community effort to transition people from the streets into stable housing, so too must any plan for temporary shelter contain plans for transitioning its structures and purpose into a more stable and substantial form. Dignity Village in Portland is a good example of this. What was once a mobile encampment of tents and tarps is now a semi-permanent urban eco-village, modelling the future of sustainable urban community.

Where the funds required to obtain the materials to create these structures are not readily available, organizers of these kinds of projects must make use of whatever is available to them in order to facilitate the timely creation of much-needed temporary shelter. Thus, no one is considering tents to be a ‘solution’, but as stated, are a vast improvement in the lives of many local homeless people who are unable to access existing shelter.

Re: MLA Harry Bloy’s assertion that Olympic Protestors are ‘Terrorists’

Though I wasn’t present along with the protestors during the Victoria leg of the torch relay I certainly share the opinion that the Olympic Games is an extravagance that the province of B.C. cannot afford. It seems to me that your government when campaigning for and ultimately gaining power during your first mandate went on at length about the shortcomings of the previous government - pointing out that the province’s finances must be run like a business or a household budget all the necessities must be taken care of and if there were money left over then it could be directed to entertainment etc. It was also stated that one does not, through excessive borrowing, create an illusory lifestyle that would vanish when ones ability to service the debt can no longer be matched by their ability to generate income.

In effect this is what you have visited upon the people of British Columbia by subsidizing the games with money that has been stripped from social services leaving them (in some cases literally) out in the cold. If and only if our house was in order, meaning the gaps between those needing housing and available housing were eliminated, those needing access to health care and the system’s ability to provide it, education adequately funded, mental health and addictions services able to meet the demand for those seeking help etc. etc. then we could entertain the idea of hosting these games.

If indeed some individuals within the group chose to conduct themselves in a manner that would jeopardize the safety of those in the relay, this is unfortunate (of course there is nothing to verify that the alleged acts were done by anyone that was there to participate in a peaceful protest). Even if someone within the group exercised poor judgement it is unfortunate and inappropriate that you would label the whole group “terrorists” and people of “limited intellect” that would be a kin to someone saying all politicians represent nothing more than corporate interests and once in office their concern for the average person in their constituency is gone until closer to the next election - that’s neither a fair statement nor true - is it?

It is tough to swallow the idea of any perceived or actual economic benefit for the average British Columbian that can’t even afford to go to the games (in many cases truth be known they can’t even really afford to pay for the cable service that will bring the games to their living room).

While you’re doling out the shame - how is it that you feel justified exploiting the presence of someone that is “disabled” in the relay to try and build a case for why within a democratic society a protest should be frowned upon because it might cast a disparaging light on the legitimacy of these games being held here at this time. Why don’t you ask the same disabled participant or others with similar disabilities how well they are being served by the various social services they rely on - or are unable to gain access to.

Tell me please if this is an event that is being promoted as being of benefit for all the people of B.C. - why amongst the private corporate and media “boxes” was there not seating made possible - available at a low admission cost or through a lottery system that would truly make this an event that afforded access to anyone.

Most of what could be considered to be inspiring about the Olympic games will never reach those that could truly use some inspiration in their lives - the legacy for these people will be the continued or worsening absence of those necessities in their lives - which have been traded on speculation to support a sporting event that when all is said and done doesn’t matter anyway.

Sincerely,
Rob Mason, Victoria



Site C Dam Update

As of deadline for February’s *Street Newz* we know from the throne speech that the Belleville Mafia consider the Site C Dam a serious option. We have also had it confirmed from the Ministry of Energy Mines and Petroleum Resources that Hydro’s Feasibility Study Part 2 has been submitted to cabinet.

Scuttlebutt has it that approval for this ecocidal project to proceed to environmental assessment will be announced late one Friday afternoon shortly before, or during, the upcoming 2010 olympic SHAME, while the attention of the electorate is focused on all the attendant hype.

Limited quantities of “SAY NO TO SITE C” buttons are available. Please send an SAE enclosing \$1 to P.V.E.A., Apt 612, 1745 Leighton Rd., Victoria, B.C. V8R 6R6.

Brochures on the Site C issue can be obtained from the same address or by phoning Don at 250-477-5507.

Readers new to the issue can also visit the P.V.E.A. website at www.peacevalley.ca, or search Site C Dam on B.C. Peace River.

Yours with the ever free flowing waters of the PEACE,
Don

INSERT BRAIN HERE



After Copenhagen

There are three things we can apply now rather than waiting for the next big rendez-vous of world leaders:

1. Start capping emissions from both industrial and transportation/building sources now - we know who the emitters are.
2. Temperatures in the Arctic vary but some have already reached 3 degree Centigrade increase; capping at 2 degrees as recommended at Copenhagen is no longer possible.
3. Charge the CEOs, board of directors of the fossil fuel industries and delinquent government leaders with crimes against humanity. They have known of the problem for decades and stalled while millions suffer and die from the effects

The need for speed is essential as the problems escalate. For example, methane gas escaping from Arctic tundra speeds up warming dramatically.

Meantime the PR machine for oil and chemical companies continues to muddy the waters, confuse the public - as they did with their cigarette campaign, and should be charged with crimes against humanity.

Binding agreement and committed targets were not reached at the 2009 Copenhagen Conference. We cannot wait. Countries around the world must move now as quickly as possible to cap the problem. The public pretty much accepts we must all focus on action now. It is the world leaders and global corporations who are dragging their feet.

Sue Hiscocks, Victoria

Managing Persistent Fears and Anxieties

By: Stanley Popovich

Everybody deals with anxiety and depression, however some people have a hard time in managing it. As a result, here is a brief list of techniques that a person can use to help manage their most persistent fears and every day anxieties.

When facing a current or upcoming task that overwhelms you with a lot of anxiety, the first thing you can do is to divide the task into a series of smaller steps. Completing these smaller tasks one at a time will make the stress more manageable and increases your chances of success.

Sometimes we get stressed out when everything happens all at once. When this happens, a person should take a deep breath and try to find something to do for a few minutes to get their mind off of the problem. A person could get some fresh air, listen to some music, or do an activity that will give them a fresh perspective on things.

A person should visualize a red stop sign in their mind when they encounter a fear provoking thought. When the negative thought comes, a person should think of a red stop sign that serves as a reminder to stop focusing on that thought and to think of something else. A person can then try to think of something positive to replace the negative thought.

Another technique that is very helpful is to have a small notebook of positive statements that makes you feel good. Whenever you come across an affirmation that makes you feel good, write it down in a small notebook that you can carry around with you in your pocket. Whenever you feel depressed or frustrated, open up your small notebook and read those statements. This will help to manage your negative thinking.

Learn to take it one day at a time. Instead of worrying about how you will get through the rest of the week, try to focus on today. Each day can provide us with different opportunities to learn new things and that includes learning how to deal with your problems. You never know when the answers you are looking for will come to your doorstep. We may be ninety-nine percent correct in predicting the future, but all it takes is for that one percent to make a world of difference.

Take advantage of the help that is available around you. If possible, talk to a professional who can help you manage your depression and anxieties. They will be able to provide you with additional advice and insights on how to deal with your current problem. By talking to a professional, a person will be helping themselves in the long run because they will become better able to deal with their problems in the future. Remember that it never hurts to ask for help.

Dealing with our persistent fears is not easy. Remember that all you can do is to do your best each day, hope for the best, and take things in stride. Patience, persistence, education, and being committed in trying to solve your problem will go along way in fixing your problems.

Stan Popovich is the author of “A Layman’s Guide to Managing Fear Using Psychology, Christianity and Non Resistant Methods” - an easy to read book that presents a general overview of techniques that are effective in managing persistent fears and anxieties. For additional information go to www.managingfear.com.

Olympic Truce

by Brian Mason

We are a fidgety, curious animal, prone to wanderlust – and easily bored to distraction. The 17th century philosopher and mathematician Blaise Pascal famously captured this essential aspect of our make-up: “I have discovered that all human evil comes from this, man’s being unable to sit still in a room.” It seems we are the curious cat who likes to be entertained, the more spectacularly the better.

Spectacle itself has a long and bloody martial history, with much of its violence institutionalised. For the ancient Romans blood combat was a virtue, the empire’s amphitheatres bulging with cheering patrons until well into the 5th century CE. A buffet of gladiators (usually slaves or prisoners of war), wild beasts or condemned criminals – and sometimes all three at once – were put into combat. Interestingly, the pesky, upstart Christians posed a problem for Roman authorities: they were only too willing to be martyred before a bloodthirsty crowd in the local coliseum, the more gruesomely the better.

Ensuring a steady supply of exotic beasts from Africa (either to kill the condemned or be killed themselves) was another challenge for promoters. It was never easy to bring a blood spectacle to town: each event required the classical equivalent of a corporate sponsor. And the gladiators themselves were like a capital investment for their owners, which might explain why only about 10 per cent of fights ended in the death of a combatant. All aspects of Roman society were tied into the gladiator system: it oiled the wheels of the empire, according to Harvard historian Kathleen Coleman. Holders of certain posts or positions were expected to underwrite these big, expensive events. In other words, you had to be rich, influential and well-connected to pull it off. Sound familiar?

The too-easily accepted wisdom of today is that civilisations have progressed beyond the need for public bloodletting. No longer is the hanging of common criminals in the town square an occasion for an outing with friends or the feeding of Christians to the lions an opportunity to wager some of the family grocery money. Today we have the spectacle of sport in their stead. Or do we?

Modern-day Olympic boosters like to claim a lineage back to the murky origin of the Games circa 776 BCE in ancient Greece. That’s quite a stretch considering the 1400 year gap between the last of the early Games and their reincarnation in 1894 following a few less auspicious attempts at revival. Nor did the fact that downhill skiing and figure skating were not popular events in ancient Olympia forestall the emergence of the Winter Games in the early 20th century. Now, too, we have the Paralympics and the Youth Games to round out the family. The Olympics are proving to be an inflatable object, indeed. There’s room for everyone who buys into the excess, exuberance and corporate bombast of the spectacle.

Yet the people protest, and the authorities wonder how this possibly can be. The answer lies in how spectacle has been repositioned in today’s world. The Olympics have become a distraction – as opposed to an integral – spectacle, our bloodthirstiness having been displaced to more distant or remote venues. Nevertheless, it remains central to our way of life. Advanced capitalist countries have simply become more circumspect and arm’s-length about the violence they commit, turning it into an industry to fuel their economies and way of life. Distractions like the Olympics serve as a cover for these activities as well as a pep rally for the people – which explains why corporations are so eager to pony up megabucks as Olympic sponsors. More than being simply good for business, it diverts attention from the atrocities propping up a system based on exploitation and greed.

Powerful civilisations, including our own, are necessarily based on violence or the credible threat of violence – otherwise, they wouldn’t be powerful. They get to where they are (and remain dominant) through treachery and force. Blaise Pascal had it right. Where we have “progressed” is in the stories and myths we tell one another about who we are and how we got here. No longer feeling a need to boast outright of our bloodthirstiness, we prefer our modern-day gladiators do it on the slalom course or in the oval.

Violence is served up more discretely now, in slaughterhouses and sweat shops, in CO2 parts-per-million or remote open-pit mines, arms-trade agreements and World Bank-imposed hardships. Sometimes we like it televised, watching live as our armies invade and occupy hapless countries on the other side of the planet to the play-by-play calls of embedded journalists. When right before our eyes we witness violence – homelessness, car crashes, Indian residential schools, domestic violence, alcoholism – we are somehow able to carry on almost completely unperturbed. That’s how myths work.

Spectacles like the 2010 (Corporate) Winter Olympics take our minds off the matter. Though the locus of violence may have shifted, inside the coliseums of today you can relax with your bottle of happiness as your ethical investments work their magic. A bumper sticker for the sport of rugby nicely captures this brave new spirit: we are in the age of “elegant violence.”

Brian Mason lives in James Bay.

Save Lives! STERILIZE!

by Munkey

On October 27th, 2009 I had a Vasectomy performed to permanently prevent myself from ever having biological children. This is something I had been thinking about doing for many years, and I feel it is the single most important decision anyone can make for themselves and all Earthlings, (even more than going Vegan). If we look at all the world’s ills, virtually every single one is exacerbated by an increase in humyn population.

I made this decision for many reasons, but the top of the list is for the well being of this Planet and all its inhabitants. For the forest lands needed to be cleared to support our ever growing population. For the countless wild animals killed and displaced by modern agriculture. For the dwindling supply of fresh water. I made this decision so that all natural resources may be shared more evenly among the beings of this Earth.

For Humanity. For the 140 million children who go to sleep homeless tonight. For the millions of orphans who will die because there is no one to love them, there will be one more home open to them. For the 3rd world citizens who would otherwise die so that my North American offspring can live. (We as North Americans use over 1/3 of the worlds resources yet make up only 1/20 of the worlds population. If any people are to stem their population growth, I believe it should begin with the first world Nations.)

For my Kin. Because I feel it is unfair and cruel to invite new life into this world when we face some of the largest environmental perils ever to occur on this planet. So that no other being must forcibly live the suffering inherent in this life.

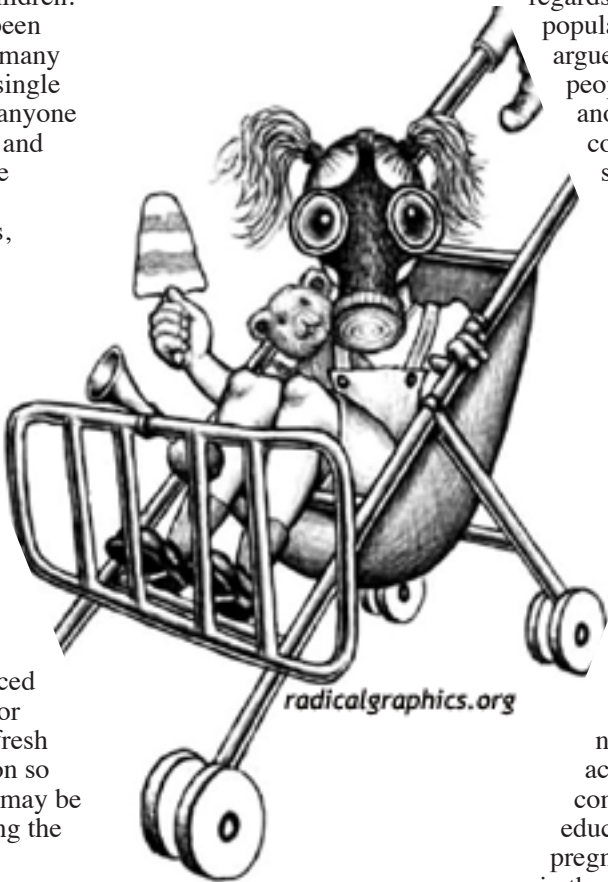
For Womyn Liberation. Because I would never want any of my female partners to have to go through the hardship and ordeal of an unplanned pregnancy and possible subsequent abortion. For all womyn of the world who have been forced to endure the repercussions of irresponsible men, I will stand up and be counted as one who takes responsibility for my reproduction.

For the suffering of the world, I free myself of the necessity to care and feed for my own kind and therefore enable myself to help those already alive. With out children of my own I will be able to care for more non-humyns and humyns alike than I would be otherwise able to.

All of the arguments I have heard for having biological children thus far have been based in Selfishness; “I want my own child!” Laziness; “Adopting Children is Hard.” or Arrogance; “But my child will be different.” These are unacceptable in a world where children are starving to death. By having biological children you are condemning the impoverished of the world to death. If you have the desire, the ability and resources to care for, love and protect a child of your own, than you have all the requirements to save an innocent child’s life from unimaginable suffering. Procreation in this day and age is subsequent to murder of a child you could otherwise save, and this is no exaggeration!

Population control is one of the touchiest subjects there is and I am all too aware of that. Being sterilized and outspoken on the subject brings me in contact with staunch supporters of procreation regularly and not surprisingly the vast majorities are parents.

If you have biological children I do not wish to make you feel guilty for it, but I do wish to discourage you from having more. Just as I don’t try and make people feel guilty about their times of eating meat before going vegan, I just encourage them to stay vegan.



Many people without even realizing it will make the most blanket racist statements in regards to controlling populations. They will argue that “all those people in Africa (or another impoverished continent) need to stop having so many babies first.” As if this statement somehow justifies their desire of having their own biological children. It is one of the most racist and ugly things I hear on a regular basis.

People living in extreme poverty many times do not have the same access to birth control methods and education on effective pregnancy prevention in the first place. If we look at countries like Canada where birth control is readily available (many times for free), and effective pregnancy prevention is common knowledge, there can be no excuse for the our population growth other than pure selfishness, laziness or arrogance.

If people argue for population control for environmental or humanitarian reasons they should speak to developed nations first, since developed nations cause more environmental and humanitarian destruction than do much larger populations of “underdeveloped” countries.

If people were to take real responsibility for their sexual actions and get sterilized the number of abortions would drop dramatically, if not to zero. With all of the pro-life and pro-choice debates the obvious solution to the problem of unplanned pregnancy seems to be completely over looked. With abortion complication rates at 6% (going to over 50% in the second trimester) and tubal ligation (female sterilization) complications rate at 1.6%, it is vastly safer for a womyn to have herself sterilized than to have an abortion. (The complication rate for a man to be sterilized is 3%. Still safer than their partner having an abortion).

The thing that bothers me the most is when people who fight so adamantly against abortion have biological children and don’t adopt the children they claim they want to save in the first place. If they feel that caring for unwanted children is not their responsibility, whose is it then?

Save Lives! STERILIZE!

A vasectomy is a relatively simple procedure. As someone who supports feminist ideology I feel it is the responsibility of the male bodied individual of a relationship to be sterilized. Although tubal ligation (female sterilization) is considered a safe and simple surgery taking no more than 20 minutes to be completed, a vasectomy is a less invasive procedure and has a quicker recovery time. Non-permanent female forms of birth control are known to have adverse effects on a womyn’s body, whereas a vasectomy has an incredibly low rate of side effects.

My vasectomy took 20 minutes from walking in the door to leaving (compared to 1-2 hours for T.L.) The method was local anesthetic and a small incision was made on both sides of my scrotum where the vas deferens were extracted and snipped in two areas, two small sections were removed, and then clamped. The pain was minimal, although I stayed off my bike for the next week!

Munkey is Vegan, and writes with Love and Anarchy.

Food Resources

please send updates to
streetnewz@islandnet.com

9-10 CLUB (ST. ANDREW’S SOUP KITCHEN)
740 View St. Victoria, B.C. V8W 1J8 ph: 250-388-5571 8 - 10am seven days a week.
Church-run club providing daily meals on a drop-in basis.

ANAWIM COMPANION SOCIETY
973 Caledonia Street Victoria B.C. V8T 1E7 phone: 250-382-0283
Mon, Tues, Thurs 10am-5pm, Weds, Fri 10am-8pm, Sat 10am-4pm
Laundry, showers, meals, clothing, limited housing spaces.

COMMUNITY FOOD BANK
4-697 Goldstream Ave, 250-474-4443
Tues, Weds: 10am-3pm, closed last week of the month

ESQUIMALT COMMUNITY LUNCH
Esquimalt United Church Hall, Lyall St., just past Admirals Rd. Tues & Thurs noon-1:15

GOLDSTREAM FOOD BANK
761 Station Rd (Legion Basement), Langford, B.C. phone: 250-474-4443
3rd Tuesday, monthly at the basement of the Royal Canadian Legion.
Serving the Western Communities from View Royal to Metchosin

FOOD NOT BOMBS
A collectively run food kitchen. Ph: 250-383-5144, ext 1940
http://users.resist.ca/~fnb-victoria. A collectively run food kitchen.
Free vegetarian serving Sundays, 3 pm - Harris Green (Pandora & Vancouver)
Bring plastic containers for bowls, bags 4 produce.

FRUIT AND VEGGIE BOX
901 Kings Road, Victoria, B.C., V8T 1W5 Phone: 250-388-7696
Good Food Box Program - order \$5, \$10, or \$15 box of fresh fruit and vegetables at the beginning of the month and receive it in the middle of the month. Purchased in bulk. Order and pick up boxes @ BCC

JAMES BAY COMMUNITY SCHOOL
140 Oswego Street, Victoria, B.C. V8V 2B1 phone: 250-389-1470
Seniors Dinners on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5 PM - \$5.75
Community Dinners Weds, approx. every other month., usually \$4 & \$2 -12 & under.
Tickets must be purchased at the centre in advance
Community school cafe open Mon - Fri 11:45 am -12:30 pm. \$3.25 & child 2.75.

JAMES BAY COMMUNITY PROJECT
547 Michigan Street, Victoria BC. V8V 1S5 (250) 388-7844, email: askus@jbcp.bc.ca
Hours Monday to Friday 8:00am-4:00pm

MUSTARD SEED STREET CHURCH www.mustardseed.ca
625 Queens Avenue, Victoria, B.C., V8T 1L9 Phone: 250-953-1575
Service for families: Monday, Wednesday, & Friday 9 AM - 2 PM
Service for couples and singles: Thursday 9 AM - 2 PM

OUR PLACE
919 Pandora Ave., Victoria, BC V8V 3P4, Phone: 250-388-7112
9am - 5pm Monday to Friday, closed weekends; showers & laundry 9-3:30
lunch - 11:30 am-12:30 pm; dinner - 4-5 pm
Victoria’s ‘Living Room’ - a drop in centre with computer room, printers, special projects, tea & coffee, singing Wednesdays with Louise Rose.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY
101-831 Yates Street, Victoria, BC V8W 1M1 Phone: 250- 382-2767
9 am-12:30 pm, 1:30 pm-4:30 pm Mon-Friday, Tues aft for Women
Must be 19 yrs, unless referred by parents, ASK, or Soc Services. Food, clothing, household items. Home visits, food vouchers for parents w/children.

SAINT SAVIOUR’S KITCHEN
310 Henry Street, Church Hall (VicWest) phone: 250-384-8773
Rainbow Kitchen for everyone, Weds, Thurs, Fris, 12 noon 1:30 pm
Shelter Weds-Sat nights, arrive 9-10 pm: mats, blankets, often food. Space for 25-35.

SALVATION ARMY
Family Services and Counselling (singles, too) 2695 Quadra St 250-386-8521
Monday Friday, 9 am - 3:30 pm Emergency food hampers, clothing & small house wares vouchers. Extra shelter space only available in subzero temperatures.

SIKH TEMPLE
1210 Topaz Avenue, Victoria, V8T 2N1: (towards summit park), enter right side door
250-383-5443 Every Sunday at noon - Free food serving, lentil dahl and chapatis, etc.

STREETLINK EMERGENCY SHELTER
1634 Store St., Victoria, B.C. V8W 1S2 Phone: 383-1951, office 383-1951
Free dinner 7 days a week, 3 pm for meal ticket, serving at 3:30

ST. JOHN THE DIVINE
1611 Quadra St., Victoria, B.C., V8W 2L5 phone: 250-383 7169
Food bank open Tues & Fridays, 10 am-noon, in church basement. (Closed Fri and Tuesday after Welfare Wednesday, and Tuesdays after Monday stat.)

VICTORIA NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE
231 Regina Avenue, Victoria, BC V8Z 1J6, 250-384-3211
Wholesale prices, various size boxes. Pay first, pick up following wk.

Good Food Box Program - Duncan area - 250-746-4204, www.providence.bc.ca.

Breakfast Club

First Saturday: St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Hall, 680 Courtney St, 8-10 am
Second Saturday: St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Hall, 680 Courtney St, 8-10 am
Third Saturday: Glad Tidings Pentecostal Church Hall, 1800 Quadra St. 8-10
Fourth Saturday: Central Baptist Church, 833 Pandora, 8-10 am; 385-7786
Fifth Saturday: BC Ferry Workers’ Union at St. Andrew’s Hall, 8-10 am

DAY WORKERS FOR HIRE

We provide dependable labour for the odd jobs that arise in your home, office, or business. All wages go directly to the workers.

707 Johnson St., 250-388-9296



Based on a model proven both locally and worldwide, boasting lasting success rates of approximately 75%, Woodwynn will grow more than just beautiful organic produce... it will grow new life.

www.woodwynn.com
richleblanc@shaw.ca

Housing Resources

No Cost for Service, Time Limited Stay

Salvation Army (Emerg men only) 525 Johnson Street, 250-384-3396
Streetlink 1634 Store Street, 250-383-1951
Sandy Merriman House (for women) 809 Burdett Avenue, 250-480-1408
Sobering & Assessment Ctr (24 hr) 1125 Pembroke (@ Cook) 250-213-4444
Out of the Rain (Youth 15-25) 250-812-0490 winter only, various locations
Kiwanis Youth Shelter (13-18) 2117 Vancouver St., 250-386-8282
Hill House - Women with children 250-479-3963
Sooke Transition House 250-642-2591 Women with or without children
Vic. Women’s Transition House 250-385-6611 Women with or w/out kids
Cridge Centre for the Family 1190 Kings Rd 250-386-7291 Women & kids
Kiwanis House for single women 16-29 w/ one child 250-382-1004
Margaret Laurence House 250-995-0058 Women & kids escaping abuse

Low Cost Monthly Rentals

Ritz Hotel - 710 Fort Street, 250-381-1868
Fairfield Hotel - 710 Cormorant St., 250-386-1621
York Hotel - 711 Johnson Street, 250-385-2544
Douglas Hotel - 1450 Douglas Street, 250-383-4157
Ocean Island Backpackers - 791 Pandora Avenue 250-385-1788
Turtle Refuge Backpackers - 1608 Quadra Street 250-386-4471
Vic. Human Exchange Soc. 361- 2762, 1-800-691-9366, www.humanx.org
Extreme Outreach - men only, \$350 + dep. No alcohol or drugs. 250-708-2064

Subsidized and/or Supported Housing Services

BC Housing (subsidized - low income families, 55+, or w/disabilities)
301- 3440 Douglas Street, 250-475-7550 www.bchousing.org
Burnside Gorge Community Assoc. 250-388-5251 members.shaw.ca/bgca
Capital. Region Housing (subsidized, low income families, 55+, disabilities)
623 Fisgard, 250-388-6422 www.crd.bc.ca/housing
Capital Mental Health Association Satellite Housing Program 250-389-1211
Coordinated Housing Registry (subsidized & supported housing)
www.coolaid.org 826 Cormorant St. 250-356-2548
M’Akola Housing Society 250-384-1423
Pacifica Housing Advisory Assoc. (families) 827 Fisgard 250-385-2131
Pacifica Housing Serv/Downtown Outreach Serv (connects low-income folk w/ housing in private sector) 826 Cormorant 250-356-2555
Pandora Youth Apts 753 Pandora, For 15-19 yrs, Andrea - 250-380-2663
St. Vincent de Paul Soc. 250-382-2767 www.svdpvictoria.com/services/
Victoria Senior Citizen Housing Society - Please register with the Housing Registry at the BC Housing Management Commission: 301-3440 Douglas 250.475.7550

Some Housing Searches on the Internet

BC Housing Subsidized Housing List	www.bchousing.org
Brown Bros. Property Management	www.brownbros.com
BC Co-Operative Housing	www.chf.bc.ca/
Camosun Off Campus Housing List	http://www.myidealhome.com/ccss
David Burr Property Management	www.davidburr.com
Off Campus Housing for students	housing.uvic.ca/ads/index.php www.homes4students.ca

Helpful Housing Hints

- 1. Add your name to the BC Housing list.
- 2. Add your name to the Coordinated Housing Registry.
- 3. Get the addresses & phone numbers of subsidized or supported housing units from the Cool Aid Society, the BGCA, M’Akola, etc. If you find one you like, make friends, impress them, ask them to pull your name off the list. They can let you in, but you have to be listed with BC Housing first.

Some places to call for help

Action Committee of People with Disabilites - 948 View St., 250-383-4105
Adult Addiction Comm. Treatment Serv: 2nd floor, 1250 Quadra, 250-727-3544
AIDS Vancouver Island: 1601 Blanshard St., 250-384-2366
Alano Club: 1402 Broad St, 250-383-9151
Alcoholics Anon: #8, 2020 Douglas, 250-383-7744 (help), 250-383-0415 (office)
Cool-Aid Medical Clinic: 250-385-1466
Cool-Aid Phone Message Service (\$5/mth): 250-383-1977
Credit Counselling - 250-477-9998
Foundation of Support of Recovery for Men: 250-480-1342
HomelessNation.org - online community
Grief/Bereavement Counsel: Lorraine Jasmin, R.P.C., 1198 Goldstream, sliding scale
Lalli Care Clinic - Drug Info, Med. Review, Alt Health - 250-386-5100, lallicareclinic.ca
Men’s Trauma Centre: 250-381-6367, #203-1420 Quadra St. www.menstrauma.ca
Outreach Services Methadone Clinic: 2004 Fernwood Rd., 250-480-1232
Problem Gambling Help Line - 1-888-795-6111
Prostitute Empowerment & Education (PEERS): 744 Fairview Rd., 250-388-5325
Research, Education, Evaluation, & Support Prog. (REES): 250-595-8619
Salvation Army Addictions & Rehab Centre: 525 Johnson, 250-384-3396
Seniors’ Advocacy Group - 388-7696 for advive; 250-360-1068 to be an advocate
Society of Living Intravenous Drugusers (SOLID): 7-9 pm Weds, 1947 Cook
Together Against Poverty Society (TAPS): #302-895 Fort St 361-3521
Victoria Native Friendship Centre: 384-3211 -- 231 Regina Ave V8Z 1J6
Victoria Sobering & Assessment Centre: 1125 Pembroke, 250-213-4444
Vancouver Island Addiction Recovery Soc.: 536 Cecelia, 250-480-1342
Youth-to-Youth Support Line - 24 hours. 250-386-TALK, www.youthlines.ca

this page is devoted to the life of Harriet Nahanee



Frequently Asked Questions About the 2010 Olympics

by Pivot Legal Society
www.pivotlegal.org

Q: How many security officials will be in Vancouver during the Games, and what will they be doing?

A: The Olympics will be the largest peacetime security operation in Canadian history, with an estimated 16,500 police, private security and military personnel and a \$900 million budget. The Vancouver Police Department will handle policing in the city, RCMP and private security guards will provide security in the venues, and Canadian soldiers will provide security support during the Games, but will not be patrolling the city. U.S. military will be cooperating with Canadian Forces under the provisions of NORAD (North American Aerospace Defense Command); the U.S. will contribute Coast Guard and Navy vessels but no American troops will be involved on Canadian soil unless both countries declare a state of emergency. The U.S. State Department has leased an entire floor of a downtown Vancouver building for the month of February.

Q: How will security operations affect homeless people during the Games?

A: People sleeping close to Olympic venues like BC Place will be displaced during the Olympics. They will be asked to relocate before the Games begin, and may face arrest if they refuse to leave when the security fences go up. Officials have promised publicly that there are no plans to sweep the streets of homeless people or panhandlers during the Olympics. However, a new law called the Assistance to Shelter Act allows the police to use force to take homeless people to shelters against their will during cold weather.

Q: Will the police step up their enforcement of laws against possession and use of drugs, prostitution, sleeping in parks or street vending during the Olympics?

A: We cannot be sure. Officials have been saying that what's legal today will be legal during the Olympics, and what's illegal will continue to be illegal. Police have discretion in how they enforce the law, and there is no way to know whether they will decide to crack down on drug users, sex workers, homeless people or panhandlers during the Games. The city recently passed a new bylaw permitting City workers to issue tickets and impose \$250 fines for street vending. Last year's VPD ticketing blitz in the DTES has people worried they will be targeted for minor offences or arrested for unpaid fines.

Q: Will there be CCTV cameras monitoring people's activities in public space during the Games?

A: The City voted to spend \$2.6 million to install CCTV cameras in Olympic venues and public gathering areas. About 900 CCTV cameras will be put up in Olympic venues, and another 50 to 70 monitoring devices will be in place at celebration sites, along pedestrian corridors, and in the Granville Street entertainment district. There are no plans for Olympic cameras in the DTES.

Q: Will protests be allowed during the Olympics? Will they be restricted to designated protest zones?

A: The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees the right to freedom of speech and freedom of assembly. The Charter is part of Canada's constitution, the highest law of the land. Officials have said many times that lawful protest will be allowed in public areas of the city, but unlawful activity like blocking roads or pedestrian access will result in enforcement action. One problem with this is that traditionally public areas, like David Lam Park, Robson Street and Granville Street will become "celebration sites" during the Olympics.

Officials said they would create "free speech areas" for protesters; many people pointed out that all of Canada is a free speech area, and officials clarified that they will not restrict protests to those zones, and people will be free to protest outside those areas. We still do not know how many protest zones there will be, how big they will be, or how surrounding neighbourhoods will be affected. Officials have not ruled out the use of agents provocateurs during protests - officers who incite violence during protests in order to justify police crackdowns. Similarly, they have not ruled out using undercover police to take over the leadership of activist groups or direct the activities of those groups.

Q: Will I be able to carry a sign or wear a t-shirt critical of the Olympics? What about handing out leaflets or other written material?

A: The City passed new bylaws to clarify that signs containing political messages, including signs critical of the Olympics, will not be confiscated or destroyed during the Games. The police say that signs will be permitted as long as they aren't used as a weapon. If you are a spectator at an Olympic event, you will be searched and may not be allowed to carry any signs or display messages critical of the Olympics or Olympic sponsors.

Q: Will the Poverty Olympics and Women's Memorial March be cancelled due to the Games?

A: The Women's Memorial March happens every year on February 14, and the police and City of Vancouver have committed to ensuring the event can take place during the Olympics. Organizers of the event are still concerned about last minute route changes and increased police and surveillance of the march. The 2010 Poverty Olympics happen February 7, 2009, the week before the Games begin.

Q: Will I be able to get around during the Olympics? What parts of the City will be blocked off?

A: Please consult the map below to get a sense of how Olympic transportation plans will affect your ability to get around. Hastings Street is a designated Olympic corridor, meaning that one lane in each direction will be reserved for Olympic traffic only. Pedestrian safety is a major concern. Streets throughout the Downtown Eastside such as Cordova, Powell and Gore will have 24-hour parking restrictions, meaning that people who work on these streets and who need a vehicle for their work will have a hard time finding parking during the Games.

Q: Will people be able to access the supervised injection site, food lines, and other services in the Downtown Eastside during the Olympics?

A: The Olympics are going to put a lot of pressure on the Downtown Eastside and make life more difficult for many people. Increased police presence, thousands of tourists, and an Olympic lane running through the heart of the community could make accessing necessary services more difficult. We all need to work together to do what we can to make sure that people's lives are disrupted as little as possible due to the Olympics.

You're invited to the Third Annual
2010 POVERTY OLYMPICS
Sunday, February 7 12:30-3pm

Poverty Olympics Torch Relay
Join the province-wide torch relay
at VANDU, 380 E Hastings 12:30pm

Opening Ceremonies & Games
at the Japanese Hall, 487 Alexander 1-3pm

FREE FOR ALL! povertyolympics.ca

Zoe's Anti-Olympic Style Guide

"Protester" is a word that's over-used and generic. Better reporting identifies a person by his or her occupation, location, age, and so on. For example: "Zoe Blunt, a Victoria writer and Olympic critic ..."

We're people in the community with jobs and occupations, just like everyone else. There's no reason to deviate from the standard way any person in the street would be identified.

Below are some words and phrases that may be more accurate and descriptive than "protester."

Critic, Activist, Dissenter, Dissident, Volunteer, Organizer, Resident, Researcher, Whistleblower, Environmentalist, Independent journalist, Community leader, Indigenous activist, Free speech supporter, Social justice advocate, Anti-poverty campaigner, Human rights watchdog

Similarly, "protest" lacks detail and may not apply to the action on the ground. These words and phrases may be more accurate and descriptive:

Campaign, educational campaign, letter-writing campaign, street outreach campaign, corporate campaign, etc., Rally, March, Action, Demonstration, Picket, Information picket or Picket line, Festival, Teach-in, Gathering, Guerrilla theatre, Street party, Flashmob, Sit-down strike, Walkout, Banner-hang, Civil disobedience, Blockade

Is it a blockade? If the road is blocked and no traffic can get through, it is a blockade. If traffic is being allowed through, it is an information picket or a checkpoint.

Don't assume the group has a "leader." Grassroots organizations often are consensus-based and effectively leaderless. Some street actions are spontaneous. When in doubt, it is best to use a label that does not presume an individual has authority over the group:

Organizer, Coordinator, Spokesperson, Media contact, Participant, Legal liason, Volunteer (see "Protester," above").



Where Are Canada’s Role Models?

by Inge Bolin

Canada’s many compassionate citizens abhor the abuse and torture of animals who have no way of defending themselves. Yet, their voices are subdued by a government that endorses the largest massacre of marine mammals ever to occur on this planet.

For many years up to 350,000 baby seals were cruelly killed every spring in front of their desperate mothers. Thousands of pictures and videos show how these beautiful babies are clubbed or shot, then their skins are torn off their bodies while, according to veterinarians, at least 42 percent of these innocent animals are still alive. Videos show how sealers poke hooks through the tender noses of the baby seals or through their eye cavities, dragging them along the ice while these animals move in excruciating pain trying to get away. But they cannot escape the horrible fate they must endure by their merciless persecutors on the ice and by those sitting in government.

Most Canadians suffer every spring at the thought of yet another holocaust on the ice of Newfoundland/Labrador. (Please see: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EwAM8fTAHME>, www.sealshurt.com and many other videos).

“Shame on Canada” resonates around the world and people abroad shudder as they view these bone-chilling scenes that can only happen in a nation void of dignity, compassion and respect for life. This despicable commercial massacre, that serves to clothe selfish and cruel people, cannot be compared with the practice of the Inuit people who catch a seal from time to time, honour its spirit and use absolutely every part of the animal in order to survive.

If the seal hunt is an economic necessity as the government claims, why was the generous help, offered by people from various countries, rejected? These people not only offered much more money than the sealers ever made in their dirty trade, but they also came to Newfoundland/Labrador to assist the sealers in developing ethical and sustainable trades, such as eco-tourism in the hope that the outrageous crime against nature and its sentient beings would end once and for all. Children told me they would give the last penny in their piggy banks if only the baby seals could live.

But the government rudely rejected these well meant offers from people who could no longer endure the extreme suffering of the baby seals and their mothers. Neither does the Canadian government care about international boycotts of fish and other products which amount to losses in the hundreds of millions of dollars or consider the immense expenses this taxpayer-subsidized



massacre causes. We must ask ourselves whether some of our “leaders” are too naïve to see reality or whether they have no scruples about sending blatant lies our way. A few months ago, Gail Shea, the minister of Fisheries and Oceans, wrote that her Department makes sure that the seal hunt is humane and that it is tightly monitored through a three-step process to ensure that death has been achieved quickly and humanely.

First of all it is never humane to kill a defenceless baby in front of its wailing mother. Secondly, nobody in their right mind will believe that the Department of Fisheries and Oceans has enough money to send monitoring crews in boats and planes across the immense region to make sure the sealers obey the rules. These crews would have to remain on the ice during weeks to assure that every time a sealer tears the skin off its victim, the baby animal no longer blinks its eyes? Since the price for a seal skin plunged from \$ 100 to less than \$ 15, the sealers will work even faster to make any money at all.

One sealer admitted that he kills the seals for the fun of it, because the money is no longer there. Every one who has common sense knows that such monitoring is impossible,



but our “leaders” continue to insult us with despicable dishonesty.

Cruelty and sadism are not new among some of Ms. Shea’s predecessors. Instead of being positive role models, people such as the former Minister of Natural Resources, John Efford, shocked the world as he addressed the Newfoundland House of Assembly with the words: “I would like to see the 6 million seals, or whatever number is out there, killed and sold, or destroyed and burned. I do not care what happens to them. The more they kill, the better I will love it.” (Hartford Advocate, Oct. 03, 2007). Loyola Hearn was another of those “ leaders” who was a disgrace to Canada as he used abusive language against those who opposed the slaughter. When the European Parliament passed a resolution to ban seal products, based on the votes of virtually all Europeans, Hearn responded: “If they want a war over this, they bloody well got one.” (Humane Society of the US 9/29/2006). Canada’s image around the world has not recovered from such brutality, nor from the illegal capture of Sea Shepherd’s boat, the “Farley Mowat” and the disgraceful treatment of its international crew of observers.

As if this state of affairs is not serious enough for Canada, the minister of Fisheries and Oceans and some other “leaders” want to pile even more shame on this country by challenging at the World Trade Organization the European Union’s decision to ban all seal-derived products from entering the EU. Is it in the name of democracy that these Canadian leaders want to discredit the votes and wishes of Europeans who oppose the heart-breaking cruelty? Do they want to impose their notion of cruelty on other nations? Over and over again I am told by our government that the seal hunt is humane. If the horrors on the Canadian ice are considered humane by our leaders, we all are in very deep trouble.

Canada’s decent and honest people deserve true Role Models, such as Senator Mac Harb, a compassionate and very courageous leader who is the only politician to oppose the seal massacre. Needless to say, he is celebrated as a hero abroad.

How many more enemies does this government want to make with its horrifying annual massacre of marine mammals? Isn’t it shameful enough that Canadians are the biggest polluters per capita in the world, and that Canada accounts for 62% of all mining companies who poison many parts of this planet? We all know that now, more than ever, all nations must work together peacefully in efforts to prepare for the worst catastrophe humanity has ever had to face as glaciers melt, weather conditions become more extreme, the sea level rises at an alarming rate and the oceans get warmer and more acidic. Over two billion people on this planet are already on the verge of starvation.

The greatest minds of our civilization, such as Mahatma Gandhi, Albert Einstein, Leonardo da Vinci, Albert Schweitzer and hundreds more acknowledged that cruelty to animals is a sign of moral decay. The vast majority of Canadians agree. As long as Canada’s leaders refuse to listen to wisdom and compassion, as long as the baby seals die a horrible death on the melting Canadian ice, Canada will not regain respect among the nations of the world.

Inge Bolin Ph.D. is an anthropologist, educator, and author. Photos: Anti-seal hunt demonstrators rally in Halifax, 2006: REUTERS/Paul Darrow. Animal rights activists protest against Canada’s seal hunt in Madrid, 2009: REUTERS/Andrea Comas.

Some Comic Relief

A cowboy named Bud was overseeing his herd in a remote mountainous pasture in Alberta when suddenly a brand-new BMW advanced toward him out of a cloud of dust

The driver, a young man in a Brioni suit, Gucci shoes, RayBan sunglasses and YSL tie, leaned out the window and asked the cowboy, “If I tell you exactly how many cows and calves you have in your herd, will you give me a calf?”

Bud looks at the man, obviously a yuppie, then looks at his peacefully grazing herd and calmly answers, “Sure, Why not?”

The yuppie parks his car, whips out his Dell notebook computer, connects it to his Cingular RAZR V3 cell phone, and surfs to a NASA page on the Internet, where he calls up a GPS satellite to get an exact fix on his location which he then feeds to another NASA satellite that scans the area in an ultra-high-resolution photo.

The young man then opens the digital photo in Adobe Photoshop and exports it to an image processing facility in Hamburg, Germany.

Within seconds, he receives an email on his Palm Pilot that the image has been processed and the data stored. He then accesses an MS-SQL database through an ODBC connected Excel spreadsheet with email on his Blackberry and, after a few

minutes, receives a response.

Finally, he prints out a full-color, 150-page report on his hi-tech, miniaturized HP LaserJet printer, turns to the cowboy and says, “You have exactly 1,586 cows and calves.”

“That’s right. Well, I guess you can take one of my calves,” says Bud.

He watches the young man select one of the animals and looks on with amusement as the young man stuffs it into the trunk of his car.

Then Bud says to the young man, “Hey, if I can tell you exactly what your business is, will you give me back my calf?”

The young man thinks about it for a second and then says, “Okay, why not?”

“You’re a Member of Parliament for the Canadian Government,” says Bud.

“Wow! That’s correct,” says the yuppie, “but how did you guess that?”

“No guessing required.” answered the cowboy. “You showed up here even though nobody called you; you want to get paid for an answer I already knew, to a question I never asked. You used millions of dollars worth of equipment trying to show me how much smarter than me you are; and you don’t know a thing about how working people make a living - or about cows, for that matter. This is a herd of sheep.

Now give me back my dog.

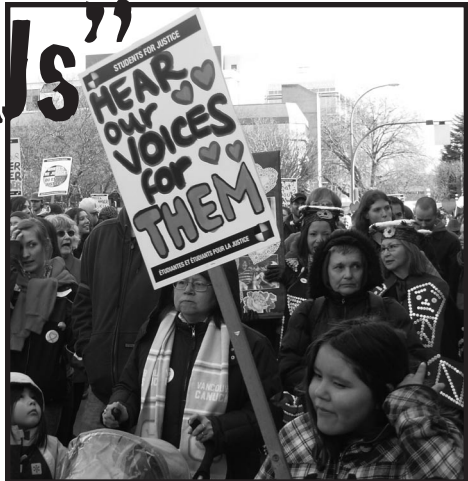


“Their Spirits Live Within Us”

19th Annual Women’s Memorial March for Murdered and Missing Women

with information from Amnesty International
(www.amnesty.ca/campaigns/sisters__overview.php)

compiled by Rose Henry



The February 14th Women’s Memorial March is held to honour the lives of women who die each year due to violence, and to remember the women who are still missing.

It is POVERTY that underlies violence against First Nations (FN) women carried out by both First Nations and non-Indigenous people.

“The only time anybody has the right to look down on somebody else is when they are helping them to get up.” Darcy K.

Deep inequalities in living conditions and access to government services have pushed many FN women into situations, ranging from overcrowded housing to prostitution, where there is a greatly heightened risk of violence. The same inequalities have also denied many FN women access to the services and support, such as bus services, public payphones emergency shelters, needed to escape violence.

First Nations women in Canada experience high levels of violence. One government survey found that young First Nations women were five times more likely than other women to die as a result of violence. FN women themselves have taken the lead in breaking the silence that for so long surrounded the violence inflicted on them.

Profiles of violence and discrimination against Indigenous women in Canada

Amnesty International’s research has focused on one often overlooked dimension of Indigenous women’s experience of violence: the violence that takes place in urban settings or the lives of women moving between reserves and urban settings.

This violence can be stopped. But only if Canadian officials take concerted action to protect the lives of First Nations, Inuit and Métis women and girls.

According to a Canadian government statistic, young Indigenous women are five times more likely than other women of the same age to die as the result of violence.

The pattern looks like this:

- * Racist and sexist stereotypes deny the dignity and worth of Indigenous women, encouraging some men to feel they can get away with acts of hatred against them.
- * Decades of government policy have impoverished and broken apart Indigenous families and communities,

leaving many Indigenous women and girls extremely vulnerable to exploitation and attack.

* Many police forces have failed to institute necessary measures – such as training, protocols and accountability mechanisms – to ensure that officers understand and respect the Indigenous communities they serve. Without such measures, police too often fail to do all they can to ensure the safety of Indigenous women and girls whose lives are in danger.

No excuse for government inaction

There is no excuse for government inaction. In fact, many of the steps needed to ensure the safety and well-being of Indigenous women have already been identified by government inquiries.



All levels of government should work closely with Indigenous women’s organizations to develop a comprehensive and coordinated program of action to stop violence against Indigenous women. Immediate action should be taken to implement a number of long overdue reforms, including:

- * Institute measures to ensure that police thoroughly investigate all reports of missing women and girls
- * Provide adequate, stable funding to the front-line organizations that provide culturally-appropriate services such as shelter, support and counseling to help Indigenous women and girls escape from harm’s way.

Stolen Sisters’ Rally

We may not know our missing sister in person, or know her name. But we do know is that she is someone’s daughter and that she was loved and is still missing. This is why you are invited to join us as we show our love and our desires to end all forms of violence on all our sisters.

This year the annual Stolen Sisters’ Rally is being held on February 14 in communities throughout Canada.

In Victoria - February 14th, 2010 at Pandora and Vancouver (in front of Our Place). Gather at 11 am and March at noon. Wear Regalia or Red to honor and remember the Indigenous women from all across Canada who are missing or murdered, to speak out and tell the world the violence must end - especially for those who have been silenced. For more info contact the University Native Student office in the SUB at the U of Victoria, or write to nsu@uvicnsu.ca.

In Vancouver - February 14 2010, begins at 12 pm at the Carnegie Community Centre, 401 Main Street, Vancouver. This is a memorial not a protest; it is a deeply emotional time for family members and women affected especially in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside (DTES). For information contact Marlene George @ (604) 665-3005.



Hychka Siem for showing your support for our still missing women and for the spirits of our women no longer with us (partial list) ...

Alberta Williams
Marie Laliberte
Morenda Isaac
Helen Lessard
Sarah De Vries

Lillian Jean O’Dare - September 1978
Wendy Louise Allen - March 1979

Rebecca Guno - June 1983
Sherry Rail - January 1984

Yvonne Marlene Abigosis - January 1984

Linda Louise Grant - October 1984

Sheryl Donahue - May 1985

Leigh Miner - December 1993

Laura Mah - August 1985

Teresa Williams - July 1988

Ingrid Soet - August 1989

Nancy Clark - August 1991

Mary Lands - 1991

Kathleen Wattley - June 1992

Elsie Sebastien - October 1992

Gloria Fedyshyn - January 1993

Sherry Baker - 1993

Teresa Louis Triff - April 1993

Angela Arseneault - August 1994

Catherine Gonzalez - March 1995

Catherine Knight - April 1995

Dorothy Spence - August 1995

Diana Melnick - December 1995

Tanya Holyk - October 1996 *

Olivia Williams - December 1996

Frances Young - April 1996

Stephanie Lane - January 1997

Sharon Ward - February 1997

Cara Ellis - 1997

Maria Laura Laliberte - January 1997

“Kellie” (Richard) Little - April 1997

Helen Hallmark - August 1997 *

Janet Henry - June 1997

Marnie Frey - August 1997

Jacqueline Murdock - August 1997

Cindy Beck - September 1997

Andrea Borhaven - sometime in 1997

Sherry Irving - April 1997 *

Cindy Feliks - November 1997

Kerry Koski - January 1998

Inga Hall - February 1998 *

Sarah deVries - April 1998

Elaine Dumba - April 1998

Sheila Egan - July 1998

Julie Young - October 1998

Angela Jardine - November 1998

Marcella Creison - December 1998

Michelle Gurney - December 1998

Ruby Anne Hardy - 1998

Tania Petersen - 1998

Tammy Fairbairn - 1998

Jacqueline McDonell - January 1999 *

Georgina Papin - March 1999 *

Brenda Wolfe - February 1999 *

Wendy Crawford - November 1999

Jennifer Furminger - December 1999 *

Tiffany Louise Drew - December 1999

Dawn Croy - November 2000

Debra Jones - December 2000

Sharon Abraham - 2000

Patricia Johnson - March 2001 *

Yvonne Marie Boen - March 2001

Heather Bottomley - April 2001 *

Heather Chinnock - April 2001 *

Angela Josebury - June 2001 *

Sereena Abotsway - August 2001 *

Diane Rock - October 2001 *

Mona Wilson - November 2001 *

* Robert Pickton charged with first-degree murder

Waging War Against the Ghost of Osama Bin Laden

(Second of Two Parts)

by Gordon Pollard

Is the United States continuing to wage an international “war on terrorism” ostensibly aimed mainly at killing or capturing Osama bin Laden even though it knows full well bin Laden died more than eight years ago?

In the January edition of *Street Newz* we began examining that question, raised by American author David Ray Griffin in his fascinating new book *Osama bin Laden: Dead or Alive?*, and we looked at the compelling evidence indicating bin Laden died of kidney failure on December 13th or 14th, 2001, and was buried at Tora Bora in southeastern Afghanistan.

We also saw how the al Qaeda leader has been “kept alive” over the past eight years by the United States and Britain who needed bin Laden as “bogeyman” to bolster public support for their wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and also by al Qaeda who needed bin Laden as “a superstar” to attract new recruits to their organization.

We ended last month’s installment by looking at some of the disturbing parallels between today’s controversy over 9/11 and Osama bin Laden and the controversy 46 years ago about the assassination of President John Kennedy. We noted not much seems to have changed in almost half a century: we were told a pack of lies about Kennedy’s murder and we are being told another pack of lies about Osama bin Laden and the 9/11 “attacks.”

As Griffin notes in his book, however, one thing that has changed is the fact that video and audio technology has improved by leaps and bounds and has now reached the point where it is possible to produce highly sophisticated fake documents using digital audio and video morphing.

According to Sean Broughton, director of the London-based production company “Smoke and Mirrors” and one of Britain’s leading experts on visual effects: “It would be relatively easy for a skilled professional to fake a video of Osama bin Laden.” And John Henry Hingson, former president of the U.S. National Association of Criminal Defence Lawyers, notes: “In this day and age of digital wizardry, many things can be done to alter the veracity of audio tapes and video tapes.”

As might be expected with all of this dazzling technology, a number of the voice-from-the-grave “bin Laden” tapes over the past eight years have been quite sophisticated productions. But what is most amazing is that several of them – such as the “Jalalabad tape” that we looked at in detail in our January edition – have been such obvious fakes they wouldn’t fool anyone beyond the age of five or six.

Another of the most laughably unconvincing “bin Laden tapes” was the so-called “October surprise video” aired by Al-Jazeera television in Qatar on October 29th, 2004 – just four days before the U.S. presidential election. The timing alone more or less gave the game away since the dire warnings “bin Laden” made in the tape were obviously intended to scare U.S. voters and thereby help George Bush win re-election.

But what was most bizarre about this tape was that the “bin Laden” figure looked even younger and healthier than the “bin Laden” figure had looked in the 2001 video. Although practically all of the U.S. media – and, sadly, most of the Canadian media as well – accepted this tape as genuine, it was largely rejected and even ridiculed in much of the rest of the world.

In India, for example, a former high-level government official, Bahukutumbi Raman, asked: “How come Osama bin Laden seems to be growing younger and healthier all the time, when, like all human beings, he should be growing older and weaker, particularly when he is being relentlessly hunted, or so we are told, day in and day out by George Bush?” Raman wryly noted that the “bin Laden” in the video seemed to have found some magic elixir of youth and suggested he could probably make a fortune if he got out of the al Qaeda business and into the health-consulting business.

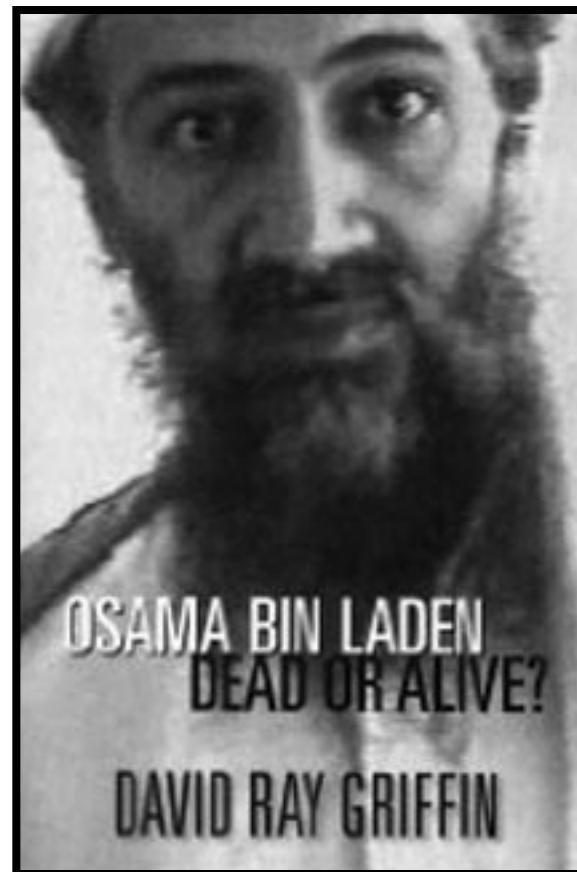
One other aspect of the tape that was curious, to say the least, was the fact that even though “bin Laden” said he intended his speech as “a direct address to the American people,” he didn’t speak a single word of English. According to a number of people who had met and talked with bin Laden (such as British journalist Edward Girarder and General Hamid Gul, the former head of Pakistani intelligence), the al Qaeda leader spoke impeccable English, so if the real bin Laden had been making a direct address to the American people, he would almost certainly have spoken in English.

Quite apart from all the hocus-pocus with the tapes, the “official story” about Osama bin Laden and 9/11 makes no sense in terms of simple logic. As Amir Taheri, a Paris-based journalist who followed all the twists and turns of bin Laden’s career for decades, notes, the al Qaeda leader was nothing if not savvy. Having publicly sworn in the name of Islam that he “had no knowledge of the 9/11 attacks,” as bin Laden did on September 28th, 2001, he would never have then contradicted himself by making a series of taped messages claiming responsibility for 9/11.

Moreover, Taheri points out that bin Laden “had an ego the size of Mount Everest” and had never been shy about claiming responsibility even for events in which al Qaeda’s involvement had been peripheral at best. Had bin Laden really master-minded the 9/11 “attacks” he certainly wouldn’t have tried to hide that fact. On the contrary, he would have proclaimed the “attacks” a “great triumph for al Qaeda” and trumpeted to the heavens his role in orchestrating them.

One of the reasons why the Osama bin Laden saga is so fascinating is that it demonstrates what a tangled web of lies, deceptions and manipulations international politics can be. All of the major players on the world stage know that just as surely as the bird in the famous Monty Python skit was “an ex-parrot,” so bin Laden is an ex-al Qaeda leader. But hardly anyone dares to even whisper that publicly. The lying has now gone on for so long that everyone feels overwhelming pressure to continue with the charade.

When President Obama, for example, is asked what he thinks is the best way to find



Osama bin Laden, he obviously isn’t going to reply: “I suggest you grab a shovel and start digging in the ground around Tora Bora. Any bones you come across will quite likely be those of old Osama.”

Obama – and, indeed, the al Qaeda and Taliban leaders as well – stick strictly to the “official script.” They all believe it is in their best interest to keep the long-dead bin Laden “alive,” at least for the foreseeable future.

I suppose the production of all the bogus “Osama bin Laden” tapes does have at least one upside. It provides potential employment opportunities for those who think they would make credible bin Laden imposters. And these jobs would likely be long-term since U.S. intelligence officials will no doubt keep churning out these fake tapes for years to come.

Indeed, 2010 promises to be a boom year for the phoney-evidence producing business since the U.S. authorities have announced that some of the so-called “terrorist suspects” held at the notorious Guantanamo Bay detention camp are going to be put on trial in New York City.

Instead of acknowledging that the Kean-Zelikow Commission Report on 9/11 was a fraud and holding a new, honest public inquiry into what really happened on 9/11, the authorities are apparently going to stage a series of carefully-controlled diversionary “show trials” complete with “confessions” extracted under torture.

For example, the detainee whom the corporate media are trying to “sell” to the public as “one of the master-minds of 9/11,” a strange and seemingly quite delusional fellow named Kahlid Shaikh Muhammad, has been subjected to such brutal torture – including 183 “water-boarding” sessions – that he would probably have “confessed” to being a Martian or a Venetian if his interrogators had so demanded.

One can only wonder how many times Chief Justice John Marshall must be flipping over in his grave at the thought of how the once proud and revered judicial process which he helped develop and which he considered a model for all of humanity has now been reduced to this kind of grotesque farce.

In any case, *Osama bin Laden: Dead or Alive?* is another fine addition to the collection of more than 30 books which David Ray Griffin has written on a variety of topics, and it is a must-read for anyone trying to keep track of all the byzantine geo-political shenanigans of our time.

Gordon Pollard, who is a native of Victoria, has a MA in History from Columbia University in New York City and a BA in History and English from the University of Victoria. After working for 10 years as a journalist in B.C., Alberta, and Ontario, Gordon spent 20 years teaching English and History in Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka.



In The Dawning

In the dawning of the turning time
the sacred is tipping

In the dawning of the turning time
the prophecies are hidden.

in the dawning of the turning time
the Hopi and Mayan are the ones we have been waiting for

(I twinge with discomfort when prayers are used,
in part, from other cultures.)

The earth is turning and the people are moaning
and the ground is cold with yearning.

In the quaint city of my birth
we let the homeless shoot-up and wander the streets
while the rich send their support to exotic lands
and the children are starving in our back yard.

The Winter Olympics are coming while the Natives
are suffering and the poor are starving and
the Olympics are coming to B.C.
with the highest poverty rate in Canada(?)
well my friends the earth is heaving
and the children are screaming
and the people are sleeping
and the times are turning
and the Olympics are coming.

Solange

Goodbye Hal Sisson

March 16th 1921 -
December 26th 2009



With great sadness, we say goodbye to long time *Street Newz* writer and supporter, Hal Sisson. His daughter Lindy wrote:

“Hal Sisson passed away of severe Aortic Stenosis after 18 days in hospital waiting for a heart valve replacement. He was able to spend Christmas day at home, but unfortunately the medical bureaucracy moved too slowly for the operation to take place.”

A special page to remember Hal was created at www.fv911truth.org/RememberingHalSisson.html. And Hal, true to form, left us with his own obituary:

The best thing about getting old is that you didn’t die young. Continual prompting by my comely, long-suffering wife Doreen, causes me to write my own obituary. Therefore I am telling you that I tried not to pass peacefully (as 99% of obits mention) to join my erstwhile loved ones in heaven, hell, the Emerald City or the choir invisible. Being of rational mind I tried to hang around as long as I could, knowing I wasn’t going anywhere else – the reason being that I am a dead atheist and they are non persona grata anywhere. I did not belong to any of the innumerable, fear-mongering, holier-than-thou religions plaguing our planet and causing the majority of society’s problems.

Born in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, the oldest child of Karl and Lillian Sisson, I lived in nearby Pasqua till my school-teacher father died when I was seven. Two younger brothers, Ted and Alan, and a sister Karol, have predeceased me.

What did I do while alive? A good question. I spent four years in the RCAF as an armourer in Squadron #135 (Hurricanes in Alaska) and #422 (Sunderland Flying boats in Coastal Command in Ireland and Wales). It is not until you get a lot older that you learn the utter futility of war and who the s.o.b.’s are who cause and run these immoral and illegal wars in their own self-interest – I’m talking about the military/industrial/banking complex and the corporate fascist police state that has gradually taken over society. This is a planet we live on, not an American empire.

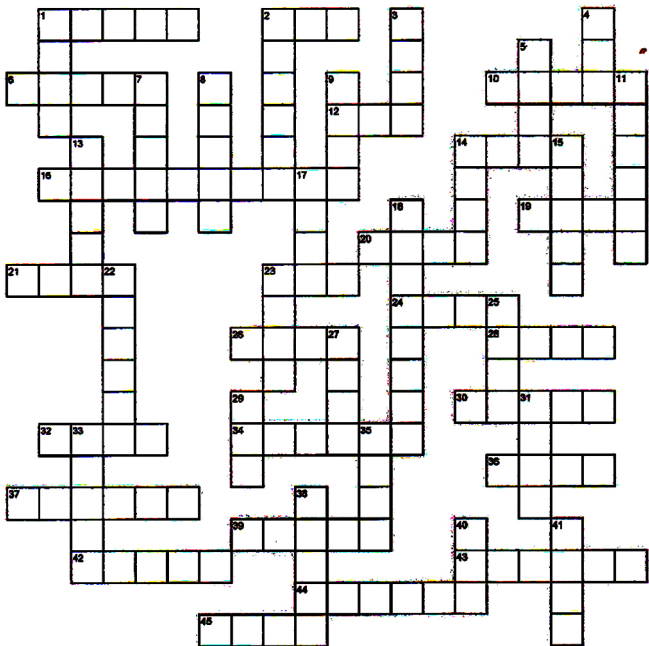
I graduated from the law school at the University of Saskatchewan in 1951, and practiced law in the town and judicial district of Peace River, Alberta from 1953 till retirement to Victoria in approx 1990. As a defence lawyer I tried my damndest to instil a sense of justice into the RCMP. While so engaged, and in order to preserve my sanity dealing with other people’s problems, my main hobby was stand-up comedy; and am particularly proud of my part in the formation of Peace Players, whose main annual production over more than twenty years was ‘Sorry ‘Bout That’ – a burlesque show in the true sense of the genre, for which I gathered the material, produced and acted in the show. You can’t beat a mixture of comedy, dancing girls and booze to produce a winning theatrical combination.

Shortly before retiring from the law I began to write – true small town humourous Canadian anecdota with my law partner Dwayne Rowe (Coots, Codgers and Curmudgeons; Garage Sale of the Mind); murder mystery and action-adventure novels featuring old fart sleuths like Dwart Farquhart and Phil Figgwiggin (Fat Lot of Good, Maquiladora Mayhem, You Should Live So Long, The Big Bamboozle, Potshots, and Caverns of the Cross); an anthology of authentic burlesque skits (Sorry ‘Bout That); and Modus Operandi 9/11 – a factional novel about the machinations of the New World Order and what really happened to the NY trade center buildings on that fateful day. You can still buy any or all my books – which reflect my views as best I could - and I strongly recommend that you do. Contact Global Outlook, P.O. Box #222, Oro, Ontario, L0L 2X0 – info@globaloutlook.ca www.globaloutlook.ca – phone toll-free with Credit card info to: 1-888-713-8500 or overseas 1-705-720-6500. Go to www.halsisson.ca for further details.

My other hobbies – marble collector and player (once made top 24 player world category); croquet player, International and USCA rules; fly fisherman and table tennis player. My siblings and friends my age have nearly all kicked the bucket. I regretfully leave my loving wife Doreen, my children loquacious and tenacious Ted and talented and loving Lindy, grandchildren Cydney, Jeremy and Corey, nieces and nephews and younger friends, to carry on having as great a time as possible in an ever-increasingly complex and weird world. Goodbye and Good Luck – I loved you all.

When all is said and done, more is said than done – but just keep hoping for the best, expecting the worst, because life is a play and we’re all unrehearsed!

Don's Crossword



EclipseCrossword.com

Down

- stretched or pulled tight
- writes the advocate
- this is one
- ernesto guevara
- second-
- a frame for holding an artist's work in progress
- clean,tidy and stylish
- an imaginative story
- grannies
- make an emotional appeal
- small circular band
- a spiral horned African antelope
- the earth viewed as a vast self regulating system
- longest or shortest day of the year
- an informal prolonged reprimand
- aid
- articles offered for sale
- final
- a movement of the tide
- a short journey of pleasure
- permit
- unable to find one's way
- towards or situated to the rear
- mimic
- tusked wild pig

Across

- deadly electronic weapon
- say something in order to attain an answer
- a person who shows the way to others
- one of the necessities of life
- a feeling of reverential respect
- be carried or supported by
- controversial span
- moisture falling from the atmosphere
- snz vendor quadra fairway mkt.
- a stylish and confident man
- feline
- moving at a low speed
- an aim or desired result
- too
- trivial
- ring around an angels head
- of seattle
- expel from a position or place
- a piece of land surrounded by water
- regular tendency or practice
- of change, cfuv programme
- genre with deliberate exaggeration for comic effect
- panhandler's or society's need
- be without or deficient in





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Old Eagle Eyes
Jewelry and Design
oldeagleeyes.com

André Motuz - Métis Artist and Designer

Phone: (250) 220-7983

E-Mail: oldeagleeyesjewelry2001@yahoo.com

January 15 – February 27, 2010



HomelessAwareness:

An Exhibition of Artwork by People who have Experienced Homelessness



Opening Reception:
Friday, January 15, 6 – 9pm
Free and Open to the Public

705 Johnson Street,
Downtown Victoria
Gallery Hours:
Wed – Sat, 11am – 5pm

This juried exhibition is the first event from the Victoria Fine Art Festival. All works will be available for sale and 100% of all proceeds go directly to the artist. There will also be a full color catalog accompanying the exhibition.



www.VictoriaFineArtFestival.org

"You CAN" CHANGE your life !!

FREE All Power Lifestyle Seminars

Join this friendly group to improve every area of your life:

Spiritual, Physical, Mental, Emotional, & Financial.

Weekly, Fridays
7:15-8:30 pm
@ 983 Pandora Ave.

Attend any or all sessions.

For more info call Moe
@ 250-920-0268

Need help with House Cleaning?
call Bernie

250-389-1000 apt 208 or
250-216-3745 (c)

Bolivian President Evo Morales:

"Because of an historical responsibility to humanity, we are organizing the first conference on climate change and the rights of Mother Earth for indigenous people. I'm here to announce this to Bolivia and to the world." The conference is scheduled for April in the Bolivian city of Cochabamba.

From DemocracyNow.org



FOR SALE Magnetic decals 3 1/2" x 8"
\$2.00 each or 10 for \$15.00, plus mailing

To order and receive details to promote the campaign send email to rstoller@shaw.ca or narayana@telus.net
Order cheaper in larger quantities from clay@donnellycolt.com (860) 455-9621

**LET US DEMAND OUR GOVERNMENT
ENGAGE OUR TROOPS IN
PEACEMAKING, PEACEKEEPING,
AND OTHER HUMANITARIAN WORK!**

Victoria's Campus and Community Radio

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Music | Spoken Word | Multicultural | Public Affairs

The Street Newz Vendor Team



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Contact John at 886-5863 or visit him at his "office" near Fort on Douglas Street.



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Douglas @ Yates



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here and there



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James Bay Thrifty's

May money from the sale of this newspaper be used for peace, and pass through healing hands.

WHERE YOUR \$\$\$\$\$ GOES

Vendors pay 50 cents for each Street Newz (to pay the printer); whatever you give them is theirs to keep.

There's one salaried Coordinator who produces the Newz. No overhead, no extraneous expenses.

A Big Huge THANK YOU to all of you who support us in your many diverse ways ... best wishes from all of us for a Peaceful and Socially Just 2010 !!

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
Street Newz Revenue				
Paper Sales (from previous mth)	465.50	332.50	424.50	318.50
Donations	170.00	300.00	530.00	330.00
Gifts (incl in-kind)	100.00	180.00	100.00	120.00
Co-ordinator's Contribution	173.57	391.30	320.40	346.87
Subscriptions	130.00	150.00	135.00	140.00
Bread & Roses Donation to SNZ	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00
Total Street Newz Revenue	2039.07	2353.80	2509.90	2255.37
Street Newz Expenses				
Salaries	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00
Paper & Printing Costs	565.95	549.15	549.15	549.15
Vendor Meeting	0.00	0.00	0.00	40.00
Office expenses/website	0.00	100.00	114.45	0.00
Postage	73.12	74.65	81.30	76.22
Ttl Street Newz Expenses	1639.07	1723.80	1744.90	1665.37
Street Newz	400.00	630.00	765.00	590.00
Bread & Roses Revenue				
Grants	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Bread & Roses Revenue	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bread & Roses Expenses				
Bus Tickets (2 for 1)	40.50	40.50	40.50	40.50
Street Newz Donation	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00
Ttl Bread & Roses Expenses	1040.50	1040.50	1040.50	1040.50
Bread & Roses	-1040.50	-1040.50	-1040.50	-1040.50
Consolidated Ttl (SNZ + B&R)	-640.50	-410.50	-275.50	-450.50
Bread & Roses Bank Balance	3307.69	2402.83	2020.48	1389.98

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Just a Donation

\$10	\$25	\$50	\$75	\$100	\$200	other
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Please return to Victoria Street Newz
1027 Pandora Ave, Vic BC, V8V 3P6 Thanks!